

December 18, 2022

South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board's Findings on South Salt Lake Police Department's Use of Lethal Force on September 26, 2022

On September 26th, 2022, at approximately 11:45pm, two South Salt Lake Police Department officers, while responding to multiple 911 calls, shot and killed Jebb Muir in South Salt Lake, Utah. The Salt Lake County Officer Involved Critical Incident Response Team, responsible for investigation of deadly force by police, found that the officers actions were reasonable and within policy. The South Salt Lake Police Department Internal Affairs investigation concurs and South Salt Lake Police Chief Carruth recommends the two officers return to the force from administrative leave.

After reviewing the relevant evidence, including bodycam video and 911 recordings, the South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board agrees that the officers actions were within Utah state statute and South South Lake Police policies. The below is a brief account of the incident and the rationale for this finding.

Earlier on September 26th, the South Salt Lake Police Department was called to Jebb's house for a civil standby. During that encounter, complainants alleged that Jebb was suffering with psychosis, suicidal ideation, and had previously barricaded himself in a house and prepared firearms during an encounter with police. At that time of the standby, Police did not observe significant signs of mental illness or violence.

At 11:10pm, Officers responded to a 911 call from Jebb; later two more related 911 calls would come in from other individuals. During this call, Jebb establishes his access to firearms and threatens Police Officers. As the department staged, an officer who had been present at the standby earlier that day called Jebb to try and resolve the situation without further escalation.

After a brief discussion, Jebb hung up. Officers later located Jebb two blocks away after a 911 caller reported a man threatening him with a rifle. As the first two arriving officers exited their car, Jebb reached for a shotgun and fired at officers. The two officers fired at Jebb, killing him.

Given the immediacy of danger to the public, the significant risk factors including known firearm possession, multiple threats against civilians and officers, and self-defense against lethal force, the South Salt Lake Civilian Review Board finds that the two officers' use of deadly force reasonable and within Utah state statute and South Salt Lake city police department policy. In connection with the events of September 26th, the board finds no reason the two officers should not return to active duty with the South Salt Lake Police Department. The board's findings were unanimous.

The board commends the two officers for their composure and discipline, particularly the officer who maintained his leadership and control over the situation after being struck in the head by buckshot. In addition, the board would like to commend the officer who reached out to the decedent, trying to use any rapport to resolve this incident without violence.

Signed,
On behalf of South Salt Lake Civilian Civilian Review Board

Jason Keffer,
Vice Chair, Civilian Review Board